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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 SMS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5498
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12306

MILADEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS (SHERMAN, RICK) OR-P

TAGS: PEPR, MILI, PK, CH

SUBJ(U) PRC MILITARY DELEGATION FETED AS VISIT DRAWS TO END

REF: ISLAMABAD 11979

1.(U) AS ITS 10-DAY "GOODWILL" VISIT TO PAKISTAN COMES
TO AN END THE PRC MILITARY DELEGATION LED BY ZHANG CAIQIAN,

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DEPUTY CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF THE PEOPLES LIBERATION

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ARMY WAS FETED GRANDLY BY THE GOP ON OCTOBER 28 IN RAWALPINDI. IN A CEREMONY FOLLOWING TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH GOP LEADERS, ZHANG WAS PRESENTED BY PRES. ZIA UL-HAQ WITH WHAT IS LABELED "THE HIGHEST" CIVILIAN DECORATION AWARDED BY THE GOP. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION ALSO RECEIVED LESSER MEDALS.

2.(U) PRIOR TO THE AWARDS CEREMONY THE PRC DELEGATION WAS HOSTED BY LT. GEN. MOHAMMED IQBAL KHAN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, TO A LUNCHEON AT TAXILA. ON BOTH OCCASIONS THE CHINESE DELIVERED HIGH PRAISE FOR PAKISTANI-CHINESE COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP AND EXPRESSED HOPES THE RELATIONSHIP CAN BECOME EVEN WARMER. THEIR SENTIMENTS WERE ECHOED IN STATEMENTS BY ZIA AND IQBAL.

3.(C) THE CHINESE DELEGATION HAS SPENT TEN DAYS TOURING ALL CORNERS OF PAKISTAN, VISITING INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, KISSING BABIES, ETC. AS INDICATED IN THE REFTEL, THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO SUBSTANCE AND THERE WERE ONLY A FEW FORMAL SESSIONS WITH PAKISTANI OFFICIALS. THE GOP, IN THIS FINAL FEW DAYS OF THE TOUR, HAS EMPHASIZED THE "GOODWILL" ASPECT OF THE VISIT AND HAS GIVEN THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PROFILE TO THE VISITORS' ACTIVITIES. THE GOP CLEARLY WANTS ITS NEIGHBORS TO GIVE PROPER RECOGNITION TO THE APPEARANCES OF SOLID AND GROWING RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND CHINA. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE CHINESE SEE THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE IN ACCOMMODATING THE GOP BY DEMONSTRATING THE WARMTH OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

4.(C) THE MESSAGE PROJECTED BY THE VISIT HAS NOT ESCAPED THE SOVIETS (A MAJOR TARGET OF THE SIGNAL).

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THE USSR EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DISQUIET WITH THE VISIT AND WITH "CHINESE MAKING ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS ON PAKISTANI SOIL" TO THE OCM AS A RECENT SOCIAL ENCOUNTER. HE SAID THAT, WHILE NO FORMAL PROTEST WILL BE MADE, HIS GOVERNMENT PAO MADE THE GOP AWARE OF ITS ANNOYANCE.
HUMMEL

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